REMARKS

A. Status of Claims

Claims 1-34 are pending in the application. Claims 1-22 have been allowed. Claims 23-34 have been withdrawn in response to a restriction requirement. Claim 13 is currently amended. Support for amended claim 13 may be found, for example, at Figure 6D. No new material is added by this Amendment.

B. Patentability of Amended Claim 13

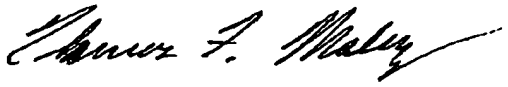
As amended, claim 13 describes a single crystal silicon segment having a distribution of non-uniform minority carrier recombination centers. Specifically, the distribution has a maximum concentration and a minimum concentration. The maximum concentration is located between a front surface of the segment and a central plane of the segment and closer to the front surface than to the central plane. The minimum concentration is located between the front surface and the maximum concentration, and the minimum concentration is less than a concentration of minority carrier recombination centers at the central plane.

Applicant submits a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement herewith for "Uniformalization of the Pt-Induced-Trap Concentration Profile in Silicon by the Two-Step Diffusion Method" by B. Deng et al. The reference discloses a two step diffusion process for uniformalizing the depth profile of platinum-trap concentration. Significantly, the process disclosed by this reference produces a non-uniform platinum concentration profile such that the peak concentration is nearer to the surface of a wafer than to the center of the wafer, but the platinum **concentration at the center of the wafer is less than the platinum concentration everywhere else throughout the wafer**. Thus, the reference fails to disclose the concentration profile described by amended claim 13, wherein a minimum concentration between the surface and the maximum concentration is less than the concentration at the central plane.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-22 as amended satisfy the requirements for patentability. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of these claims are therefore respectfully requested. Applicants enclose a Supplemental Information Disclosure and a check for $750.00 to cover the cost of the Request for Continued Examination filed herewith. The Examiner is authorized to charge any underpayment or to credit any overpayment of the above referenced fees to Deposit Account No. 19-1345.

Respectfully submitted,



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